

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00

MCT-01 SSM-03 AID-05 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 /119 W

-----067475 151349Z /43

P R 150955Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4575

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE 270

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3388

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 8-14

REF: BEIRUT 3261 (DTG 081640Z JUL 77)

1. SUMMARY: THIS WEEK, SHELLING CONTINUED ON DAILY BASIS IN
SOUTH LEBANON, AS PLO APPARENTLY LAUNCHED POLITICAL CAMPAIGN TO
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ACHIEVE CEASE-FIRE. GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO ASK FOR NEW SPECIAL
POWERS. SIX ARMED MEN HIJACKED KUWAITI PLANE AFTER IT TOOK OFF
FROM BEIRUT AIRPORT. SMALL PLASTIC CHARGE EXPLODED IN APARTMENT
IN ASHRAFIYAH. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS VISITED KUWAIT. PIERRE
GEMAYEL CALLED FOR "NATIONAL DIALOGUE" WITH ISLAMIC GROUPING.
END SUMMARY.

2. SHELLING CONTINUES IN SOUTH.

AS IN PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, SHELLING BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND CHRISTIANS CONTINUED ON DAILY BASIS IN SOUTH. CHRISTIAN FORCES MADE MINOR PROBES TOWARD VILLAGES OF TAIBEH AND BALAT, BUT THERE WAS NO MAJOR GROUND ACTIVITY, ACCORDING TO LEBANESE MILITARY SOURCES.

3. PLO DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE ON SOUTH.

PLO HAS APPARENTLY LAUNCHED CAMPAIGN TO ARRIVE AT SETTLEMENT FOR SOUTH LEBANON (SEPTTEL). HANI AL-HASSAN, POLITICAL ADVISOR TO YASSIR ARAFAT, MET WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS JULY 11, AND PLO OFFICIAL BASSIM AKL MET WITH HIM JULY 13. ACCORDING TO PRESS, AL-HASSAN GAVE SARKIS DRAFT PLAN FOR SOUTH WHICH INCLUDED THREE POINTS: (A) CEASE-FIRE, (B) WITHDRAWAL BY ALL SIDES FROM CERTAIN REGIONS WHICH WOULD BE DEMILITARIZED, AND (C) FORMATION OF MILITARY COMMITTEE TO SUPERVISE IMPLEMENTATION OF FIRST TWO POINTS.

4. GOVERNMENT TO ASK FOR NEW SPECIAL POWERS.

COUNCIL OF MINISTER DECIDED JULY 11 TO SEEK PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR LIMITED SPECIAL POWERS TO SUCCEED THOSE WHICH EXPIRED LAST MONTH, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL LEBANESE NEWS AGENCY. HOSS TOLD PRESS JUNE 12 THAT NEW POWERS WOULD BE LIMITED TO FIELDS OF SECURITY AND RECONSTRUCTION. ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR, HOWEVER, MINISTERS HAD DISAGREED ON WHAT POWERS TO REQUEST. MINISTER OF INTERIOR SALAH SALMAN FAVORED POWERS TO PASS NEW LAWS ON ELECTIONS, CITIZENSHIP, AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AN NAHAR SAID.

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5. KUWAITI PLANE HIJACKED.

ON JULY 8 SIX ARMED MEN HIJACKED KUWAITI AIRWAYS BOEING 707 AFTER IT TOOK OFF FROM BEIRUT EN ROUTE TO KUWAIT AND DEMANDED RELEASE OF 300 PRISONERS BEING HELD IN ARAB COUNTRIES. AMONG THE PASSENGERS ON BOARD WAS THE KUWAITI AMBASSADOR TO BEIRUT ABDUL HAMID BUAYJAN. HIJACKERS FORCED PLANE FIRST TO LAND IN KUWAIT AND THEN TO GO TO SYRIA WHERE THEY SURRENDERED TO SYRIAN AUTHORITIES. ALL PEOPLE ON BOARD WERE RELEASED UNHARMED. LEBANESE MILITARY SOURCES HAVE CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT IN HIJACKING AND THAT WEAPONS WERE PUT ON PLANE BY AIRPORT FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEES (SEE IR 6 857 0065 77).

6. EXPLOSIONS IN BEIRUT AND BAALBEK.

ON JULY 12, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SOURCES, SMALL PLASTIC CHARGE EXPLODED IN BASEMENT GARAGE OF APARTMENT HOUSE IN ASHRAFIYAH WHOSE TENANTS INCLUDE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY MICHEL DOUMIT. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES AND ONLY LIMITED MATERIAL DAMAGE. ACCORDING TO SUBORDINATE OF DOUMIT, HOWEVER, LATTER WAS NOT TARGET. INSTEAD, INTENDED VICTIM WAS PROBABLY OWNER OF BUILDING, WHO ALSO PART OWNER OF MEDRICO REFINERY, AND CHARGE WAS PROBABLY PLANTED BY DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEES OF MEDRICO. ON JULY 13, ACCORDING TO LOCAL

PRESS, A "FACTORY FOR MANUFACTURING SPORTS AMMUNITION" BLEW UP IN BAALBEK, KILLING 16 PEOPLE, WOUNDING NINE, AND DESTROYING THREE HOUSES.

7. BOUTROS RETURN FROM KUWAIT.

FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS VISITED KUWAIT FROM JULY 10-12 AS PART OF A SERIES OF VISITS TO STATES ON QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE. (BOUTROS ALSO VISITED CAIRO AND SAUDI ARABIA WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS AND PLANS TO VISIT SYRIA JULY 15). UPON RETURN TO BEIRUT, BOUTROS TOLD REPORTERS POSSIBILITY OF SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN LEBANON WOULD DEPEND UPON HIS UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS IN DAMASCUS. HE ALSO INDICATED QUADRIPARTITE COMMITTEE MIGHT BE RECONVENED, SINCE IT "WAS FORMED TO COOPERATE WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS ON APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORD."

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8. GEMAYEL CALLS FOR NATIONAL DIALOGUE.

IN NEW DEPARTURE, PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL ON JUNE 17 CALLED FOR "NATIONAL DIALOGUE" BETWEEN CHRISTIAN KFUR FRONT AND SUNNI ISLAMIC GROUPING. GEMAYEL HAS MET FREQUENTLY WITH TRADITIONAL SUNNI LEADERS, BUT THIS IS FIRST TIME HE HAS CALLED FORMERLY FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN FRONT AND GROUPING.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1853913
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 8-14
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5563566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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